

Temporary Decrease in Human Rabies Vaccine Supplies

A limited supply of human rabies vaccine has necessitated its judicious use by health care providers nationwide. Novartis Vaccines, maker of RabAvert[®], will temporarily cease to provide any vaccine to health care providers. Sanofi Pasteur, maker of IMOVAX[®], will only supply vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

Given current supply limitations, local health care providers are requested to consult with the Community Epidemiology Branch when rabies PEP is being considered. Use of vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis should be consistent with new ACIP rabies prevention recommendations updated May 23, 2008. These recommendations can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5703a1.htm>.

Use of vaccine for *pre-exposure* prophylaxis will require approval by state and federal public health officials. Priority will be given to individuals at greatest risk of exposure, such as rabies laboratory workers, animal control officers, veterinary staff and wildlife workers. Until vaccine supply is restored, pre-exposure prophylaxis should be delayed for persons in lower risk exposure categories such as travelers and veterinary students.

The Community Epidemiology Branch is available on a 24/7 basis for consultation regarding rabies PEP and other communicable disease issues. For more information about rabies and for updates on the rabies vaccine supply, please visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>.

Salmonella Saintpaul among California Residents

Eight (8) California residents have been linked to the multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Saintpaul associated with consumption of raw tomatoes. Of 7 residents interviewed to date regarding their tomato consumption, 5 reported some or all tomato consumption outside of California. There have been no related hospitalizations or deaths among California cases. More information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/Salmonella/saintpaul/>.

Thank you for your continued participation.

Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN)

County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency
Community Epidemiology Branch